

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 5883

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: RATIONALIZATION OF NATO TRAINING: EURO TRAINING GROUP/NATO
TRAINING GROUP (ET/NT) MEETING

REF: USNATO 5622

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE REVIEWS PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS AT JOINT SERVICES SUB-GROUP (J/S) MEETING HELD IN OSLO, OCTOBER 15-17. ALLIES WERE UNABLE TO ACCEPT US PROPOSAL FOR RESTRUCTURING ET/NT, MAINTAINING THAT BETTER COORDINATION IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ET/NT SECRETARIAT IN BONN. J/S MADE LETTE PROGRESS ON OTHER AGENDA ITEMS EXCEPT THAT REPS CONCERNED WERE ABLE TO DRAFT AN AGREEMENT FOR COMMON BASIC HELICOPTER PILOT TRAINING (BHPT). THIS MEETING REINFORCED MISSION'S RECOMMENDATION (REFTEL) THAT WASHINGTON ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION ABLE TO SUPPORT US POLICY TOWARD RATIONALIZATION OF NATO TRAINING. END SUMMARY.

1. ALL NATO NATIONS EXCEPT FRANCE, PORTUGAL, LUXEMBOURG AND ICELAND SENT REPRESENTATIVES TO J/S MEETING. ALLED REPS WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPERIENCED IN THE TRAINING FIELD SINCE MOST HAVE BEEN ASSO-
CIATED WITH ET/NT FOR SOME TIME. UK REP WAS A REAR ADMIRAL,
DEMONSTRATING THE IMPORTANCE THE UK ATTACHES TO ET/NT.

2. COMMENTS ON THE MORE SIGNIFICANT J/S AGENDA ITEMS FOLLOW:

A. BASIC HELICOPTER PILOT TRAINING (BHPT): MISSION WAS DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN THAT THE NETHERLANDS HAVE FALLEN OUT OF THIS PROJECT, DECIDING INSTEAD TO TRAIN HELO PILOTS IN CANADA IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DUTCH JET UNDERGRADUATE PILOT TRAINING (UPT) PROGRAM NOW PLANNED TO BE HELD IN CANADA UP TO 1980. ONLY THE FRG, NORWAY AND DENMARK WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE FORT RUCKER PROGRAM. THE DUTCH REP PRIVATELY INDICATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES ACTUALLY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED BHPT AT FORT RUCKER, BUT CANADA NEEDED THE ADDITIONAL TRAINEES IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ITS UPT PROGRAM FOR THE DUTCH.

B. IMPROVED HAWK: SEVERAL ALLIES DESIRE TO TRAIN TECHNICIANS AND OFFICERS IN THE US. AT THE LAST ET/NT MEETING, THE US REP STATED THAT THE US WOULD COMPLETE A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THIS TRAINING BY THE END OF MAY 1974 AND SUBMIT RESULTS TO THE J/S. ALLIES WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT THIS STUDY WAS NOT COMPLETE AND THAT THE US REP IN OSLO WAS UNABLE TO INDICATE WHEN THE US WOULD BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE STUDY.

C. RESTRUCTURING ET/NT: THIS ITEM APPEARED ON THE AGENDA AS A RESULT OF A US INTERVENTION AT THE MAY ET/NT MEETING IN ANAKARA. THE US PROPOSED THAT THE J/S BECOME MORE OF AN EXECUTIVE OR MANAGEMENT BODY AND PROMISED IN MAY A PAPER FOR THIS OCTOBER MEETING OUTLINING THE US PROPOSALS. THE US REP TO THIS J/S MEETING (FROM USCINCEUR) WAS ABLE TO TABLE PAPER, BUT ONLY BELATEDLY. HOWEVER, THE J/S CHAIRMAN (RNON CAPTAIN) HAD ALREADY CIRCULATED A PROPOSAL ON THE SAME SUBJECT SEVERAL WEEKS BEFORE THE MEETING. CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSAL, ESSENTIALLY TO RETAIN THE PRESENT ORGANIZATION, WAS IN REPS' HANDS IN AMPLE TIME TO INFLUENCE NATIONAL POSITIONS; THE U.S. PAPER WAS NOT. AS A RESULT, ONLY BELGIUM SUPPORTED THE US PROPOSAL ALTHOUGH MOST OTHER REPS AGREED TO THE NEED FOR BETTER "COORDINATION" AMONG SUBGROUPS AND WITH NATO. THE GENERAL FEELING WAS THAT THIS COORDINATION IS PROPERLY A FUNCTION OF THE ET/NT SECRETARIAT IN BONN. US REP, POINTING TOWARD NATO'S WORK IN RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION (R/S), EMPHASIZED OUR VIEW THAT THE PROBLEM

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INVOLVES MORE THAN JUST COORDINATION.

3. THE J/S CHAIRMAN ASKED REPS TO FORWARD TO HIM, BY MID-JANUARY, SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING IN BRUSSELS DURING THE SPRING OF 1975. THE US THEREFORE HAS OPPORTUNITY HERE AND NOW TO PROVIDE AGENDA ITEMS AND AMPLE TIME TO PREPARE PERSUASIVE REASONABLE TO SUPPORT OUR POSITIONS. MISSION OFFERS THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS FOR WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION:

A. TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR SUB-GROUPS - THE SUBGROUPS THEMSELVES (ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, J/S AND FINANCIAL) DO NOT HAVE TOR BUT INSTEAD RELY ON THE GENERAL GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE EUROGROUP AND BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE. US REPS TO ET/NT

SUB-GROUPS MIGHT SUGGEST IN LETTERS TO RESPECTIVE CHAIRMEN (COPY TO ET/NT CHAIRMAN RADM TREBESCH) THAT SUB-GROUPS PREPARE DRAFT TOR TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE SPRING MEETING. PREPARATION OF THESE TOR COULD FOCUS SUB-GROUPS' ATTENTION ON PROBLEMS OF MANAGEMENT,

COORDINATION AND RATIONALIZATION. LETTERS TO CHAIRMAN SHOULD OUTLINE SUGGESTED TOR CONTAINING THESE POINTS.

B. BHPT THROUGH THE 1980'S - ALTHOUGH THE J/S BHPT WORK IS COMPLETED, MISSION FEELS THAT ALLIED GOVERNMENTS SHOULD LOOK AHEAD TOWARD FUTURE REQUIREMENTS. WE NOTE THAT THE AIR FORCE SUB-GROUP IS LOOKING INTO UPT THROUGH THE 80'S AND A PARALLEL EFFORT IN BHPT WOULD ALLOW ALLIES TO CONSIDER REQUIREMENTS, TRAINING RESOURCES, AND PLANS WELL IN ADVANCE IN MAKING PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION DECISIONS. THE DUTCH J/S REP INDICATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES PROBABLY WOULD SUPPORT A STUDY OF THIS TYPE. ALTHOUGH THE CANADIANS HAVE CONTRACTED TO CONDUCT DUTCH UPT AND BHPT UP TO 1980, THE CANADIAN J/S REP INDICATED THAT FUNDING AND PERSONNEL CONSTRAINTS MIGHT LEAD TO CANADA'S JOINING THE FORT RUCKER BHPT PROJECT IN THE 1977-1978 TIME FRAME. THE DUTCH ARE AWARE OF THIS POSSIBILITY (HOWEVER REMOTE MISSION CANNOT SAY) AND WOULD BE WILLING TO SHIFT BHPT TO THE US IF THE CANADIANS DO SO.

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4. J/S DISCUSSIONS IN OSLO POINTED TOWARD ONE NEW ITEM WHICH MIGHT APPEAR ON THE J/S AGENDA FOR THE SPRING ET/NT CONFERENCE. THIS ITEM, ENVIRONMENTAL HELICOPTER PILOT TRAINING, IS IMPORATNAT AND MISSION FEELS THAT WASHINGTON SHOULD WEIGH IN EARLY SUPPORTING THE CONCEPT AT THE SAME TIME WE SUBMIT THE AGENDA ITEMS AS PROPOSED PARA 3 ABOVE. MISSION UNDERSTANDS THAT,

IN A LETTER DATED JUNE 8, 1974, THE DANISH DEFENSE MINISTER SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING AN ADVANCED HELICOPTER PILOT SCHOOL IN EUROPE (PROBABLY UK) WHICH WOULD TRAIN BHPT GRADUATES IN OPERATIONAL TASKS IN THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT. THE OSLO J/S REPORT WILL MENTION THIS SUGGESTION, ASK NATIONS TO PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS, AND ASK THE UK TO PROVIDE A LISTING OF AVAILABLE FACILITIES AND AIRCRAFT BY TYPE. COMMON TRAINING OF THIS NATURE WOULD ADVANCE US OBJECTIVES IN R/S. THEREFORE, WASHINGTON SHOULD CONSIDER USE OF SUCH A UK SCHOOL FOR NATO-BOUND US HELICOPTER PILOTS. UK AND OTHERS MIGHT THEN RECONSIDER NATO BHPT IN THE US.

5. CONCERNING FUTURE ET/NT CONFERENCES, MISSION NOTES WITH APPRECIATION THAT THE US J/S REP WAS ABLE TO EXTEND AN OFFER TO HOST THE FALL 1975 MEETING IN THE US. THE J/S CHAIRMAN WILL CONVEY
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THIS OFFER TO THE ET/NT CHAIRMAN AS PART OF THE OSLO REPORT. AS ONLY ONE PLENARY ET/NT CONFERENCE IS NORMALLY HELD EACH YEAR, AND CONSIDERING THAT THE SPRING CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS WILL BE A PLENARY, WASHINGTON MIGHT CONSIDER OFFERING TO HOST EITHER THE FALL 1975 OR THE SPRING 1976 CONFERENCE, LEAVING THE CHOICE TO THE ET/NT CHAIRMAN.

6. AS A FINAL OBSERVATION, MISSION BELIEVES THAT ET/NT IS A PROMISING AREA FOR MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD US OBJECTIVES IN R/S. DISCUSSION OF SEVERAL COMMON TRAINING PROJECTS (LANCE, IMPROVED HAWK, UPT, AMONG OTHERS) IS STILL IN FORMATIVE STAGE. HOWEVER, CONSIDERATIONS OUTLINED REFTEL WILL DETERMINE WHETHER U.S. VIEWS WILL HAVE IMPACT ON THOSE OF OUR ALLIES.
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